Lower reduction in domestic support by WTO members

2568. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to settle for a lower reduction in domestic support by WTO members of developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how far such a stand would help India in its constructive role in the WTO rounds of negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A Declaration was adopted at the conclusion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held between 13-18 December 2005 at Hong Kong. The Declaration stipulates that in a three-band structure for reducing trade-distorting domestic support, the Member with the highest level (EU) of permitted support will be in the top band with the highest cuts, the two Members with the second and third highest levels of support (Japan and US) will be in the second band, and all other developed countries and such developing countries that have entitlement to provide Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) will be in the lowest band with the smallest cuts. Furthermore, disciplines will be developed to achieve effective cuts in trade-distroting domestic support. Developing countries like India, with no commitments on reduction of Aggregate Measurement of Support would be exempted from reduction in their de-minims support.

Members will negotiate the exact quantum of cuts to be effected to the trade distorting domestic support as part of finalization of modalities in agriculture. In agriculture, ambition across the three pillars of domestic support, market access and export subsidies will be balanced.

Forbes Capital Hospitality list

2569. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India goes missing in the magazine, 'Forbes' Capital Hospitality list of the year 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;